

It doesn't make sense to me, and I know it doesn't make sense to those families.

It isn't just civilians upset by these events. We have now heard eight retired generals call for Secretary Rumsfeld's resignation, citing gross mismanagement and profound errors in judgment.

Retired Army MG Paul Eaton, in charge of training the Iraqi military from 2003 to 2004, recently wrote in the *New York Times* that Rumsfeld "has shown himself incompetent strategically, operationally and tactically . . . Mr. Rumsfeld must step down."

Retired Marine GEN Anthony Zinni, an outstanding leader, former head of the U.S. Central Command, which includes the Middle East, last month called for Mr. Rumsfeld to resign.

Other military leaders who have called for Secretary Rumsfeld to go include retired Marine LTG Gregory Newbold; retired Army MG John Riggs; retired Marine GEN Paul Van Riper; retired Army MG John Batiste; retired Army MG Charles Swannack, former Commander of the 82nd Airborne in Iraq; and retired U.S. Army GEN Wesley Clark.

In addition, we are now seeing people of lower ranks who are upset with the way that campaign has gone and are expressing their dissatisfaction.

We see also a phenomenon we haven't seen before; that is, people filling out their obligatory term at the Academy and a third of whom do not stay on. They finish their obligatory terms of 5 years and they are gone. It is a serious problem in many ways. Morally, I think it is a serious problem, but also functionally we don't have the personnel supporting the war in the way we had hoped. Whole branches of services over there are as courageous as can be. It is very dangerous territory, and they serve bravely. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

The fact is the Bush administration has made serious mistakes in prosecuting the war in Iraq, and our soldiers have paid the price. Our troops deserve better.

On the third anniversary of President Bush's "Mission Accomplished" fiasco, I hope that the President finds the strength to make real changes. And those changes need to start at the top.

I urge the President to be more specific about what our assignment is. He has already said it will be up to another President to take care of what continues there. Unfortunately, we have to believe that.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business for 5 to 10 minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WAR IN IRAQ

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, war is difficult. War is not pretty. Sometimes war, unfortunately, leads to death and injury.

Our country has been blessed over our history. There have been men and women who believe enough in our system, who believe enough in the system of democracy that we are so fortunate and blessed to have, who are willing to give their lives so this system may endure, so this system may continue, so that our country can continue to be free.

I believe, as we look at a difficult situation in Iraq, the last thing we need is a policy of defeatism, is a policy that looks to ways in which we can criticize and critique without offering an alternative path and without offering an alternative solution.

The fact is there was a worldwide failure of intelligence in the days leading up to the war in Iraq, but the fact also is that we are there today and that thousands of Americans—the best and the brightest, those we are the proudest of—are there serving this Nation with distinction, with valor, and I daresay with great success. Our hope for them must be that they complete their mission and come home; that they can come home with their heads held high for a job well done.

I also believe that the civilian concept of leadership of our military is well ingrained in our system. I had the high and distinct honor and privilege of serving in the Cabinet of this President with Secretary Rumsfeld. Secretary Rumsfeld is a man of great distinction. He is also someone who has tackled the very difficult job of transforming our Armed Forces. He has taken on the very difficult job of moving forward into a post-cold war sort of world with an Armed Forces that is very different than the one we have had. Any time a large bureaucracy undergoes change, there is difficulty with that change. And sometimes there are different opinions about how that change takes place. And there is no doubt that there are people who have had different ideas about how to approach, whether it is a war effort, whether it is a reorganization of our Armed Forces from those of Secretary Rumsfeld, but to those who have had those kind of difficult ideas I would say that we elect only one President at a time, and that President has only one Secretary of Defense at a time. That is why we have a chain of command because someone has to lead and someone has to make decisions.

I believe our country, at a time when we were unfairly and unwantonly attacked by terrorists, has been fortunate to have a President at hand who has had the good fortune to have dedicated people such as Secretary Rumsfeld at the helm to serve at his side.

This is a President who did not seek a war with terrorists but who had a war brought to us in the streets of New York, with over 3,000 American casualties on a given day. And the fact is that this President was also confronted with the need to act on this global war on terror.

I can remember when in the mountains of Afghanistan there seemed to

be a stalemate after about a month or 2 of our initial conflict there, and the naysayers were saying we had not sent enough troops. All of a sudden, a tremendous breakthrough in modern warfare took place as we saw our special forces operating on the backs of horses with laptop computers directing fire, and a whole new era of warfare evolved. But we liberated the people of Afghanistan, who since then have had elections, where women and children of all sexes can now go to school, where women can now walk the streets without fear, where children can go to school, whether they be little boys or little girls. They have had that unique opportunity in the world which we take for granted in our country.

But for those of us who were born in other places, we understand the uniqueness of voting and have had the right and opportunity to elect leaders.

More recently, 11 million Iraqis voted in the third election in 1 year, followed by the formation after some politicking and some good, old-fashioned Democratic horse trading, have formed a government.

The moment today ought to be to highlight the hope of a new Iraq, the hope of a democracy in the Middle East, which is so unique to that region of the world, the fact that a new government has been formed—not to try to recount all of the potential for different moves at any given point.

All warfare is riddled with difficulties and second-guessing. But here we have a moment of hope and opportunity. Defeatism is not a policy. It is only a prescription for failure.

I am hopeful that as we go forward, we recognize the successes of the Iraqi people and the difficult task of forming a democracy; that we relish in the accomplishments; that we understand it is an incomplete project in democracy but one moving in the right direction.

I, for one, thank all of those who are serving in these difficult circumstances over there and their families for the sacrifices they are making so that we might be successful, so that we might find a way forward that is better than defeat and is better than negativism and that is better than second-guessing.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3727

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3727.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to setting aside the pending amendment? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], for himself and Mr. DODD, proposes an amendment numbered 3727.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows: